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October 11, 2013

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Maddy Events

Maddy Report: “California’s Watchdogs” -- Guests Mac Taylor, head of California’s Legislature Analyst’s Office; California State Auditor Elaine Howle; and Stuart Drown, director of California’s Little Hoover Commission, discuss their watchdog responsibilities with Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler. The show airs on KVPT (ValleyPBS) on Friday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.

Maddy Report: “California’s Watchdogs” -- Guests Mac Taylor, head of California’s Legislature Analyst’s Office; California State Auditor Elaine Howle; and Stuart Drown, director of California’s Little Hoover Commission, discuss their watchdog responsibilities with Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler. The show airs on Newstalk 580 KMJ on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 10-10:30 a.m.

Maddy Report: “California’s New Health Care Exchange” – Guests David Panush, director of external affairs with Covered California, and Daniel Weintraub with the California Health Network and editor of the California Health Report, discuss California’s new health care exchange with Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler. The show airs on KSEE24 (Fresno NBC) on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 5:30 a.m.

The Maddy Report airs throughout California on The Cal Channel. Check <http://www.calchannel.com> to find the Cal Channel and schedule in your area. You can also view previous Maddy Report programs in their entirety at <http://www.maddyinstitute.org/policy-analysis/the-maddy-report-tv>.

Maddy Institute Updates List of San Joaquin Valley Elected Officials – The Maddy Institute has updated its list of San Joaquin Valley elected officials. The list is available [here](#).

Maddy Institute on Facebook and Twitter – To learn about Maddy Institute activities (e.g. *The Maddy Report* tv show, *The Maddy Associates’ Luncheons*, the *Maddy Legislative Intern Program*), become a fan of the Maddy Institute on Facebook or log on to <http://twitter.com/MaddyInstitute>. And if you have a Facebook or Twitter account, please add us and follow us!

Political Briefs

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Top stories

Federal funds still flow to California, November in doubt -- Ten days into the government shutdown, federal funds continue to flow to major benefit programs in California such as MediCal, the federal/state health insurance program for the poor that serves one in five Californians, said California Department of Finance deputy director H.D. Palmer. But Palmer warned that should the shutdown stretch into November, bets are off. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Brown has no plans to use state money to reopen national parks -- Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) is not jumping to accept an offer by the Obama administration to use state money to reopen national parks closed by the federal government shutdown. [LA Times article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#); [AP article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

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Gov. Brown

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Dan Walters: California governor's aide picks fight with unions – Earlier this year, the [California Labor Federation](#) blacklisted Steve Glazer, pollster Jim Moore and four other consultants for their work on the two successful incumbent challenges that elected Marc Levine and Richard Bloom to the Assembly. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

Valley politics

Turlock Irrigation District candidates debate water, power issues -- Candidates for the Turlock Irrigation District board talked Thursday night about assuring the future water supply – and about a break in the power supply one weekend last year that still is controversial. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Statewide politics

Jerry Brown puts veterans housing measure on June ballot – California voters will decide next June whether the state should restructure \$600 million in bonds to help build apartments and houses for low-income veterans, under legislation Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) signed Thursday. [Capitol Alert](#)

Immigration

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Fresno gathering promotes poll showing Valley support for immigration reform – Three Republican congressman in the Valley were urged Thursday to co-sponsor proposed legislation supporting a pathway to citizenship for an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the country. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Immigration poll puts pressure on Central Valley lawmakers – A pair of House Republicans from California's Central Valley appeared at this week's immigration rally on the National Mall. But immigration activists say that's not enough: they want them to back comprehensive legislation. Activists on Thursday unveiled a poll showing voters in those lawmakers' districts would support them if they did. [KPCC report](#)

The Rev. Msgr. Robert D. Wenzinger: Immigration reform will help family unity – The pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Fresno writes, "Americans must insist that immigration reform take into account compassion for children and loving families. Making family unity a priority over partisan politics this fall will not only improve the lives and societal well being of American families, but it also will

serve to strengthen communities of faith in Central California and across America.” [Rev. Msgr. Wenzinger op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Government shutdown

House, Senate Republicans offer competing plans on debt-limit, government shutdown – House and Senate Republicans offered competing plans Thursday to resolve Washington’s debt-limit and government shutdown crises, as President Obama held the latest in a series of meetings aimed at persuading them to accept at least short-term solutions with no partisan strings attached. [Washington Post article](#)

Boehner says GOP will agree to debt ceiling extension – The standoff over the federal budget moved toward at least a temporary end as Speaker [John A. Boehner](#) announced Thursday that House [Republicans](#) would agree to a six-week extension of the federal government’s ability to borrow to pay its bills, setting up late-night negotiations between the White House and [Congress](#). [LA Times article](#); [Reuters article](#)

President Obama signs bill to help families of fallen soldiers – President Barack Obama tonight signed into a law one of the measures he’s dismissed as a “piecemeal” approach to reopening the federal government. [McClatchy Newspapers article](#)

Shutdown prompts accusations of White House favoritism – The Obama administration defends itself against conservative critics who say some closures were made just to draw media attention. [LA Times article](#)

The Republicans’ worst poll yet – By a 22-point margin, the public thinks the Republican Party is more to blame for the shutdown than President Obama. NBC’s Mark Murray notes that that’s “a wider margin of blame for the GOP than the party received during the poll during the last shutdown in 1995-96.” [Washington Post article](#); [LA Times article](#)

Bill Whalen: California GOP should worry about the optics of federal shutdown – The Hoover Institution research fellow writes, “Californian Republicans aren’t playing for 2014 or 2016 – not when the party lacks viable candidates and is playing catch-up on fundraising and nuts-and-bolts organization. A more realistic goal would be to gain competitive footing by, say, 2018 – while adapting the party to an evolving California political landscape. Which leads to a problem in the making for the state GOP, thanks to its cousin at the national level: The federal government shutdown is killing whatever slim chances were left for immigration reform in 2013 – further poisoning the well with California’s Latino voters.” [Whalen op-ed in Sacramento Bee](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Subjected to a perpetual state of crisis -- Leading from the abyss, into the abyss, is not something the U.S. government can do for long, and it’s not something voters should abide for long. [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Government shutdown's effects ripple out to more than federal workforce -- The reality of the government shutdown is finally hitting Americans who don't get their paychecks from Uncle Sam. [Washington Post article](#)

Furloughs stall civil cases in Sacramento's U.S. attorney's office -- U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner does not rattle easily. He has faced some tough customers in court and never blinked. But the government shutdown for lack of a budget has the top law enforcement officer in Eastern California shaken right down to his toes. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Shutdown imperils costly lab mice, years of research -- The government shutdown is likely to mean an early death for thousands of mice used in research on diseases such as diabetes, cancer and Alzheimer's. [NPR report](#)

Brik McDill: Narcissism and ambition are running our Congress today -- The Tehachapi resident who has spent 40 years in clinical and forensic psychology writes, "Should we really be surprised that our Congress has descended into showboating, preening, gridlock, stalemate and dysfunction? If we stand back, don't we see that it's a perfect reflection and microcosm of, well ... us? What is it that characterizes what we have become?" [McDill op-ed in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Other areas

Bills to help California's homeless vets signed into law -- Gov. Jerry Brown signed a number of bills Thursday aimed at helping veterans, including legislation that could provide funds to expand affordable housing to combat homelessness among former service members. California is home to a quarter of the country's homeless veterans. [AP article](#)

Galgiani's dental bill OK'd -- Gov. Jerry Brown has signed into law a bill by state Sen. Cathleen Galgiani, D-Stockton, that will require portable dental units that offer services to children at schools to be available for follow-up work, keep patient records, and make those records available to patients and their parents. [Stockton Record article](#)

Gov. Jerry Brown vetoes two telecom bills -- One would have created a new system for collecting fees on prepaid cellphone minutes; the other would have curbed the PUC's LifeLine powers. [LA Times article](#)

Republicans launch Latino outreach effort -- The effort seeks to improve the party's appeal among Latinos in California and 16 other states. Unlike previous campaigns tied to election seasons, this one will be ongoing, officials say. [LA Times article](#); [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Chemical arms watchdog wins Nobel Peace Prize -- The [Nobel Peace Prize](#) was awarded Friday to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the watchdog group that has risen to sudden prominence over the past month in the effort to divest Syria of such munitions. [LA Times article](#)

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News Briefs

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Top Issue: Jobs and the Economy

Video: Tale of two California economies -- When the recession hit in 2008, no region was exempt. Five years later, the state's economy is improved, but not every region has bounced back in the same way. In fact, getting back to the "good old days" has been uneven. Unemployment rates for coastal communities have dipped, many below the state's unemployment rate of 8.9 percent. Jobs are being added and housing prices are soaring. Yet, in many circumstances, the story is much different when you travel inland where unemployment remains in the double digits. [California Forward/California Economic Summit report with video](#)

With US government shut down, Valley families try to stay afloat -- As the shutdown continues, thousands of central San Joaquin Valley federal workers and others who rely on federal programs are not getting pay or benefits from the government. [Fresno Bee article](#)

USDA: Valley-based Foster Farms can continue operation amid salmonella outbreak -- Foster Farms can continue operating chicken-processing plants in Fresno and Livingston that have been implicated in a salmonella outbreak, but with intensified sampling for disease pathogens, a federal official said Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#); [Modesto Bee article](#)

Livingston community reacts to Foster Farms outbreak -- For the past 23 years, Joga Chahal considers himself a loyal Foster Farms employee. The 49-year-old line worker-host inspector, who also serves as president of the Foster Farms' employee union, said he normally looks forward to going to work -- but not on Thursday. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Stockton Record: Business in San Joaquin County is growing -- Anyone who believes the Great Recession is still in full swing in San Joaquin County need only consider two pieces of economic news from last week. [Stockton Record editorial](#)

Fresno most business friendly? That's mayor's goal – Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin at Thursday's City Council meeting kicked off an effort to make City Hall a happier place for business to do business. Council members were encouraging, yet cautious. Fresno, they said, has heard such promises before. [Fresno Bee article](#); [The Business Journal article](#)

Grassroots gleaning: Getting harvest to the hungry – Sometimes it's just cheaper to plow under excess crops than to pay to have them picked. One recent survey from the Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that as much as 30 percent of some crops go to waste in fields in the Central Valley and Central Coast. [KQED report](#)

Study: California workers compensation overhaul too new to parse -- A new 16-state study of workers' compensation systems, covering 60 percent of the nation's workers, says it's too early to tell what the real-world effects of SB 863 will be, specifically whether its cost-saving provisions will offset the costs of increased cash payments, as its sponsors promised. [Capitol Alert](#)

Visalia Convention Center reports strong results – The Visalia Convention Center increased its revenues 6 percent in the last fiscal year as the number of events held there set a record. Revenues reached \$2.22 million in fiscal year 2012-13, convention center staff reported recently to the Visalia City Council. That's up from \$2.09 million in fiscal year 2011-12. [The Business Journal article](#); [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Dan Walters Daily: California pension push could head to ballot – Of the ballot measures that could go before voters in 2014, Dan says an effort to rein in public pensions could be the most significant. [Dan Walters Daily in Sacramento Bee](#)

State job applications won't ask about criminal past – People who seek jobs with state or local government agencies in California will not be asked on their initial applications whether they have been convicted of a crime, under legislation that was signed into law Thursday by Gov. [Jerry Brown](#). [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Salida residents form a chamber of commerce to work on incorporation – A group of Salida residents has formed a chamber of commerce to promote business and the community – and work on creating a self-governing city, its leader said. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Majestic Mountain Loop idea wins award -- The Majestic Mountain Loop, a promotion that offers visitors an itinerary to explore three national parks, was awarded for its creativity by the Western Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus. [The Business Journal article](#)

Michael Fitzgerald: Winery did itself no favors – Build it and they will come, it is said ... unless you have to tear it down. Which St. Jorge Winery of Acampo may have to do to an entire amphitheater. St. Jorge, a small winery, expanded by ignoring the law and blowing off repeated warnings with a baffling disregard for inevitable consequences. [Fitzgerald column in Stockton Record](#)

BART trains still rolling as labor talks continue – BART trains will continue to roll Friday while negotiators for the transit agency and its two largest unions remain at the bargaining table trying to reach a new contract that would avoid a strike. [San Francisco Chronicle article](#); [San Jose Mercury News article](#); [AP article](#)

Top Stories

Hunger in the Valley of Plenty -- California's San Joaquin Valley is the country's most productive farm belt: its fertile orchards and fields generate most of the nation's fresh fruit and nuts. Yet for the people who work and live near these farms, access to healthy and fresh food can be a daily struggle. [KQED/Center for Investigative Reporting report/video](#)

Brown Ok's higher fees for high-demand community college classes -- California community colleges will now be able to charge more for high-demand classes during summer and winter terms under legislation signed by Gov. Jerry Brown on Thursday. The new law creates a voluntary pilot program that allows some colleges to charge non-resident tuition -- up to \$200 per unit - -for hard-to-obtain classes such as college algebra, history and English that students need to graduate and transfer. [LA Times article](#); [EdSource article](#)

Prisons/Criminal Justice

NAACP asks federal judges to release three-strike prisoners – The [NAACP](#) is weighing in on California's prison crowding problem, asking federal judges Thursday to order the state to seek release of some 2,000 prisoners eligible for shorter sentences under the state's revised three-strikes law. [LA Times article](#)

10-year crime report released by Modesto Police Department – An above-average rate of violent and property crimes, a disturbing trend of youth offenders and crime driven by gangs were among the findings of a 10-year analysis of crime in Modesto, released by the Police Department on Thursday. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Agriculture/Water

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan: A Solution for the Delta's future? – Supporters say the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is one of the most ambitious habitat restoration programs ever. It's proposal to build two tunnels to carry water from the Delta to central and southern California is also one of the most

controversial. [Capital Public Radio report](#)

Assemblymember Kristin Olsen: Drop corn ethanol mandate to save California dairies – The Valley assemblymember (R-Riverbank) writes, “Feeding our livestock and our people should take precedence over creating alternative fuels that have proven to be less energy-efficient than gasoline. The actions requested in AJR 21 will help prevent further job loss and help our entire state’s economy, and I implore Congress to heed our request for the benefit of the entire nation. [Olsen op-ed in Modesto Bee](#)

Changing course -- San Joaquin County officials this week proposed abandoning a plan to build a reservoir in the rolling hills east of Stockton, a project that was touted for years as being critical to the region's future water supply. [Stockton Record article](#)

Boxer: Shutdown affects pesticides – California farmers could face delays in getting pesticides from foreign manufacturers because of the partial government shutdown, Sen. Barbara Boxer said Tuesday. [Gannett article in Visalia Times-Delta](#)

Education

Jerry Brown vetoes teacher firing bill – Gov. Jerry Brown has rejected a bill intended to streamline the process for firing teachers in California. Brown's veto of [Assembly Bill 375](#) marks the second straight year that high-profile legislation aimed at facilitating the teacher dismissal process failed in California. [Capitol Alert](#); [AP article](#)

Most districts say they’re equipped and ready for new Common Core tests – A majority of the school districts and charter schools responding to a [state survey](#) indicated they’ve got the technology to offer computer-based testing for the new Common Core standards. [EdSource article](#)

What would change in Modesto-area schools if state testing ends? – Students and educators may be over the moon about a one-year testing reprieve, but if the stars align to end the spring bubble tests, parents may want to see more sunshine on the results of other assessments their students take. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Merced teachers, support workers push for raises – Merced Union High School District employees pushed trustees for raises Wednesday night, but may have to wait several months before their requests are granted. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Modesto Junior College student files freedom of speech lawsuit against college – A Modesto Junior College student has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the school and officials who blocked him from handing out copies of the U.S. Constitution on Constitution Day. [Modesto Bee article](#)

California sues for-profit college company, saying it sought out poor and ‘isolated’ students -- One of California's largest for-profit college companies, Corinthian Colleges, lied to students and

investors about its graduates' success in the job market -- the key selling point for such trade schools -- and intentionally recruited vulnerable students, according to a searing lawsuit filed Thursday by Attorney General Kamala Harris. [San Jose Mercury News article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Capitol Alert](#)

Professor with Merced ties honored for poultry work – Michelle Ganci, an animal science professor at California State University, Fresno, with ties to Merced, has received a key award from the California Poultry Federation for her pioneering efforts in the poultry industry. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

More schools opening Advanced Placement classes to all students – Some students may not be adequately prepared for the rigorous classes and high achievers may be shut out. But supporters see equal access as an educational right. [LA Times article](#)

Energy/Environment

State Department of Public Health guideline ‘shocks’ Hinkley residents – Hinkley residents were “shocked and dismayed” when the California Department of Public Health issued a standard for chromium-6 regulation that doesn’t more closely match a public health goal already in place that is 500 times more stringent. [Inland Daily Bulletin article](#)

State extend Chem Waste Kettleman comment period – The final date for the public to submit written comments on a draft permit allowing Chemical Waste Management to expand its hazardous waste landfill in Kings County has been extended to Oct. 25, the Department of Toxic Substances Control said Thursday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Deal would turn out the lights on some wind turbines – Kern County planners, wind energy companies and Federal Aviation Administration officials have hatched a plan that will shut off 227 bright red lights perched on the top of massive wind turbines in the Kern County portions of the Mojave Desert. And future wind energy projects would also see fewer lights installed. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Outlook sunny for San Joaquin County solar – Workers are installing equipment, stringing wire and connecting components of two solar power projects in the San Joaquin County countryside south of Lockeford and east of Lodi. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno Bee: San Joaquin River Parkway Trust celebrates 25 years – For the past 25 years, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust has led the way in protecting the river bottom and adjacent lands and helping develop opportunities for residents to enjoy and learn about this precious resource. [Fresno Bee editorial](#)

Dave Koehler: Can you guess who turned 25? – The executive director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust writes, “For many generations, the San Joaquin River has been central to the Valley’s quality of life, and for the past 25 years the River Parkway Trust has taken its mission seriously, which is to create and protect the San Joaquin River Parkway for everyone. A big “Thank you!”

goes out to all parkway supporters.” [Koehler op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Health/Human Services

State’s GOP lawmakers put politics aside to help constituents understand new health law – As congressional Republicans stand resolute against the 3-year-old health care reform amid a government shutdown, California Republican legislators – even those who oppose the law – are marking its launch by setting aside politics at a series of meetings designed to dispel constituent confusion. The events differ dramatically from the raucous town hall meetings hosted by members of Congress during debate over the Affordable Care Act. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Health Act embraced in California – With enthusiastic backing from state officials and an estimated seven million uninsured, California is a crucial testing ground for the success of President Obama’s health care law. [New York Times article](#)

Gov. Brown extends insurance coverage for autism treatment – Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) has approved a 2 1/2-year extension of a program that requires insurance coverage for early [autism](#) treatment. Since its creation in 2011, the program has helped more than 12,500 Californians, according to Senate leader [Darrell Steinberg](#) (D-Sacramento), the author of the bills creating and extending the program. [LA Times article](#)

Kern salmonella case linked to chicken – A case of salmonella in Kern County has been linked to an outbreak of the disease that public health officials say stems from raw chicken from three Foster Farms facilities in California. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

UCSF Fresno opens new research center – The UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program has a new clinical research center. The 3,300-square-foot center allows more than 300 research projects to be conducted under one roof. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Corcoran Hospital District board Oks lease deal -- The Corcoran District Hospital board of directors has approved a lease agreement with Adventist Health to keep the rural health clinic running. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Adventist Health breaks ground on new center -- The Adventist Health Central Valley Network held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Family Birth Center on Thursday. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Land Use/Housing

Hanford Planning Commission approves 12th/Grangeville plans – The Hanford Planning Commission

voted Tuesday to recommend the annexation and rezoning of a controversial piece of northwest Hanford property. The commission recommended that the City Council annex and rezone a 1.61-acre parcel at the southeast corner of 12th Avenue and Grangeville Boulevard for a proposed development. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Transportation

Contractors asked to qualify for next California high-speed rail bids – Ground has yet to be broken in the central San Joaquin Valley on the first 29-mile stretch of California's proposed high-speed train system, but the state is already on the lookout for contractors to work on the second major section. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Valley counties merge to stay on road-funding path – From Kern in the south to San Joaquin in the north, there are differences among Valley counties, said Andrew Chesley, executive director of the San Joaquin Council of Governments, the county transportation financing authority and one of the hosts of the conference. But there are shared goals too. [Stockton Record article](#)

Fresno-Yosemite International soaring to record '13 -- Years after the downturn dramatically scaled back air travel, Fresno Yosemite International Airport is seeing ridership flourish once again along with some other record numbers to reap national recognition. Airports across the country recorded only a modest 0.7 percent increase in passengers during the first six months of the year over 2012, according to U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics. FYI soared past almost all of them, going from 618,660 to 675,048 for a 9.4 percent gain. [The Business Journal article](#)

Bakersfield gets ready to uncork Highway 58 bottleneck -- The \$17.2 million widening of Highway 58 west of Cottonwood Road, to reduce the rear-end and sideswipe accidents that occur when motorists merge from three lanes each way to two, begins next week, transportation officials said Thursday. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Other Areas

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Stockton to name manager by Nov. 12 – After a full day of interviews, the City Council on Thursday narrowed its pool of city manager candidates and expects to have one of them under contract by Nov. 12, Mayor Anthony Silva said. [Stockton Record article](#)

City Beat: Modesto denies Bee's request for records related to employee termination -- Modesto officials continue to keep quiet on why they fired a public works deputy director last month. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Valley Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – Leading from the abyss, into the abyss, is not something the U.S. government can do for long, and it's not something voters should abide for long; This week has illuminated a great contrast between Bakersfield's two professional sports teams, the Bakersfield Blaze of minor-league baseball and the Bakersfield Condors of minor-league hockey.

Fresno Bee – For the past 25 years, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust has led the way in protecting the river bottom and adjacent lands and helping develop opportunities for residents to enjoy and learn about this precious resource; Bickering leaders treat our vets like “political chew toys.”

Merced Sun-Star – With knowledge and compassion, Janet Yellen is a strong choice to lead the Fed.

Modesto Bee – With knowledge and compassion, Janet Yellen is a strong choice to lead the Fed.

Sacramento Bee – With knowledge and compassion, Janet Yellen is a strong choice to lead the Fed; Sacramento's North Franklin Business Improvement District is ready for renewal.

Stockton Record – Anyone who believes the Great Recession is still in full swing in San Joaquin County need only consider two pieces of economic news from last week; One of the most colorful of the Founders, Benjamin Franklin, got a bit more colorful this week with the introduction of a new \$100 bill.

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Upcoming Events

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●██████████ Fresno State's University Center to Advance Manufacturing will hold its third annual conference, "Facets of a Sustainable Business," at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Clovis on Friday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information: Don Austin at (559) 278-6494 or daustin@csufresno.edu.

●██████████ The Smart Valley Places partnership will hold its final convention at the Visalia Convention Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Manuel Pastor, author of "Just Growth: Inclusion and Prosperity in America's Metropolitan Regions." Please register by Oct. 28 at www.smartvalleyplaces2013.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact Ben Noble at (510)

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Interactive

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Next 10: UPDATED California budget challenge – For the first time in a decade, California's budget is largely in balance. However, the state has outstanding debts of \$28 million, not counting long-term pension and retiree health care costs. Budget choices affect us all. Take the Challenge and decide how much should be spent on programs and where the money should come from. [Next 10 California Budget Challenge](#)

Next 10: Federal budget challenge -- The Federal Budget Challenge is based on The Concord Coalition's Principles and Priorities budget exercise, which has been used in numerous town hall meetings across the country by members of Congress from both parties, as well as in hundreds of high school and college classrooms. Next 10 Federal Budget challenge at www.federalbudgetchallenge.org.

LEGISLATORS' VOTING RECORDS: How often has a California legislator broken party ranks, abstained or switched sides? The Sacramento Bee has a database of the voting records of every member of the state Senate and Assembly. Enter a lawmaker's last and first names to see how he or she voted, or enter a bill number to see how every legislator voted on it. Check it out [at this link](http://www.sacbee.com/votingrecord/).
<http://www.sacbee.com/votingrecord/>

The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno was established to honor the legacy of one of California's most principled and effective legislative leaders of the last half of the 20th Century by engaging, preparing and inspiring a new generation of governmental leaders for the 21st Century. Its mission is to inspire citizen participation, elevate government performance, provide non-partisan analysis and assist in providing solutions for public policy issues important to the region, state and nation.

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